Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 INT-05 SMI-01 OFA-01 OIC-02

IO-10 CEQ-01 EPA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 STR-04 /062 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3208

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BERN

CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 11457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SENV, TBIO, UK

SUBJECT: CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGER-

ED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

REF: STATE 170560

- 1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. FOLLOWING IS HMG POSITION ON RATIFICATION OF SUBJECT CONVENTION AS STATED BY DAVID ENNALS, MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION IN HOUSE OF COMMONS JULY 8. BEGIN QUOTE:
- " THE GOVERNMENT ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO BOTH THE RATIFICATION OF THE WASHINGTON CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA AND TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS PROVISIONS.

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"IT IS OUR INTENTION TO RATIFY THE CONVENTION AS SOON

AS CONSULTATIONS WITH THE DEPENDENT TERRITORIES, THE ISLE OF MAN AND THE CHANNEL ISLANDS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. WE WISH TO INCLUDE AS MANY OF THESE TERRITORIES AS POSSIBLE IN OUR INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION, THUS INCREASING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE CONVENTION. ANY DELAY IN DEPOSITING OUR INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION WILL NOT, HOWEVER, HOLD UP THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. WE HAVE ALREADY GIVEN AN UNDERTAKINQ TO DO THIS BY THE END OF THE YEAR USING EXISTING UNITED KINQDOM LEGISLATION. WE ARE ALSO CONSULTING WITH OUR PAR.TNERS IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE EFFECT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON INTRACOMMUNITY TRADE." ENDQUOTE. END UNCLASSIFIED.

- 2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WITH THE ABOVE STATEMENT IN MIND, WE DISCUSSED CONCERNS EXPRESSED REFTEL WITH MARGARET ROTHWELL, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT, FCO. SHE STATED UK AND FRG HAD STRONGLY PROTESTED PROPOSED FEBRUARY 1976 MEETING AS BEING PREMATURE IN LIGHT OF UK DELAY AND EC CONSULTATIONS. SHE WENT ON TO SAY THAT EC COMMISSION IS PRESSING HARD FOR JOINT RATIFICATION BY JANUARY 1, 1976. SHE CONFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT UK WILL BE UNABLE MAKE THIS DEADLINE FOR FACTORS CITED ABOVE. SHE ALSO WOULD NOT AGREE THAT AGREEMENT TO DEPOSIT SIMULTANEOUSLY HAS BROKEN DOWN ALTHOUQH IT IS SHAKY. SHE FEELS ITALY AND DENMARK MAY EVEN BE SLOWER THAN THE UK IN COMINQ TO RATIFICATION.
- 3. IN RESPONSE TO OUR SPECIFIC QUESTION SHE STATED CONFIDENTIALLY AND NOT FOR ATTRIBUTION THAT UK WOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE OTHER EC MEMBERS PROCEED WITHOUT DELAYING FOR SIMULTANEOUS DEPOSIT. HMG IS COMMITTED TO RATIFICATION AND IS ONLY FORCED TO DELAY FOR TECHNICAL REASONS. SHE SAID THEY WOULD THUS BE QUITE HAPPY TO HAVE THE OTHERS "GET ON WITH IT" BUT THAT THEY ARE NOT IN POSITION TO MAKE SUCH A SUGQESTION IN BRUSSELS. END CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ENDANGERED SPECIES, AGREEMENTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 25 JUL 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975I ONDON11457

Document Number: 1975LONDON11457 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750258-0277 From: LONDON

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750722/aaaaaatmp.tel Line Count: 108 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION OES Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 75 STATE 170560
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 23 APR 2003

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

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Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGER- ED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA TAGS: SENV, TBIO, UK
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006